

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00846 161523Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-11 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /073 W
-----113573 171612Z /43
R 161435Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0507
OAU COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 0846

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, XO
SUBJECT: MEETING OF AFRICAN PROGRESSIVES IN MADAGASCAR

REF: ANTANANARIVO 0806

1. FIRST PUBLIC NOTICE OF SUBJECT MEETING CAME OUT
IN MAY 13 PRESS AND IN OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN ON MAY
16. MEETING IS NOW BILLED IN MEDIA AS ONE OF PROGRESSIVE
PARTIES RATHER THAN STATES, BUT OFFICIAL MALAGASY
COMMENTATORS CONTINUE TO SPEAK OF "MOVEMENT OF
PROGRESSIVE AFRICAN COUNTRIES." MEETING IS TERMED
FIFTH OF ITS KIND AND HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER DIRECTION
OF NATIONAL FRONT FOR DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION (NFDR)
WHICH GROUPS THE ONLY POLITICAL PARTIES ALLOWED
TO OPERATE IN MADAGASCAR. MY INVITATION TO RECEPTION
FOR DELEGATES, JUST RECEIVED, CALLS IT CONFERENCE OF
"PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES."

2. FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ARE LISTED AS MEMBERS OF MOVE-
MENT: MADAGASCAR, TANZANIA, GUINEA-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE,
CONGO, CAPE VERDE, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, MALI,
ALGERIA, LIBYA, BENIN, AND GUINEA. ANGOLA NOT LISTED
AS MEMBER BY OFFICIAL BULLETIN, BUT PRESS SAYS IT
WILL BE COMING AND THAT IDEA OF THIS MEETING WAS
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FIRST BROACHED AT LAST YEAR'S MPLA CONGRESS IN
LUANDA.

3. DELEGATIONS FROM FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
ALREADY ARRIVED FOR CONFERENCE ACCORDING TO BULLETIN
(NAMES OF DELEGATES IN PARENTHESES): ZANU (LOKA HOVE),
ZAPU (ATTEL NELSON BOKWE), ANC (KUSSELY), SWAPO (KAVEKE)

ANTHONY KATAMILA AND SKELLO), PLO (JOUAD AL BITAR).
IT IS SPECIFIED THAT PLO IS ATTENDING AS OBSERVER,
WHEREAS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE PRESUMABLY FULL PARTICIPANTS.

4. OTHER DELEGATIONS WHICH HAVE ARRIVED ARE GUINEA (DIALHO ABDOULAY, MINISTER AT PRESIDENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION), BENIN (GADO GIRIGISOU, MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY PARTY), AND SAHROUI (MOHAMED SALEM OULD SALED, MINISTER OF INFORMATION). LARGEST DELEGATION SO FAR IS THAT OF LIBYA WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA ON MY 15 AND CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING: AHMED SHAHATI, SECRETARY OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AT THE GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE; HAMED AL-HADERIS, LIBYA'S AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA; MAFTAH MADHI, FIRST SECRETARY TO THE LIBYAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MOHAMED ALBOURKI, PRESIDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE MASSES; HAMED AL-MEHDI, OFFICIAL OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. PRESS SPECULATES THAT MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, COMOROS, AND REUNION MAY ALSO BE REPRESENTED. FOUR ALGERIAN INTERPRETERS HAVE ARRIVED TO WORK AT CONFERENCE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER RICHARD HAS COMMENTED TO PRESS THAT
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PURPOSE OF MEETING IS TO DEFINE A COMMON IDEOLOGY FOR THE MEMBER COUNTRIES' STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION, FOR JUSTICE UNDER SOCIALISM, AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND RACISM, ETC. BARRETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANTANA00846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780208-0137
Format: TEL
From: ANTANANARIVO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780556/aaaabvjk.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a15cc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANTANANARIVO 806
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2683921
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF AFRICAN PROGRESSIVES IN MADAGASCAR
TAGS: PARM, PINT, SOPN, XO, XA, MA
To: STATE OAU COLLECTIVE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a15cc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014